

reduction are all based on theoretical projections. There are inherent uncertainties in making 10 year budget projections; however, the President's Budget creates a \$1 trillion reserve over the same amount of time. This can be used to aid in Medicare and Social Security modernization. In all, the tax cut will only amount to one quarter of the projected surplus, leaving room for program maintenance, growth and unexpected situations. I am proud that Congress has made protecting Social Security its highest priority with the passage of H.R. 2, the Social Security and Medicare Lock-Box Act. Now, 100 percent of the Social Security surplus cannot be touched for other government spending. President Bush has pledged to keep the promises that America has made to its senior citizens by signing this bill.

We must eliminate the death tax—a major reason for the dissolution of family-owned small businesses, farms and ranches upon the death of the owner. Originally enacted as a temporary tax to raise funds for national security emergencies, this tax first helped create our Navy in 1797 and fund the Civil and Spanish-American wars. In 1916, the tax was made permanent. Once the current \$650,000 threshold is met, the tax consumes up to 55 percent of the remaining estate. This money will have already been taxed first as income, then possibly as capital gains or property. The impact on Eastern Washington farmers and ranchers is particularly severe. In order to be viable, even the smallest farm operation must have about \$500,000 tied up in equipment. If the farmer owns the land, the value is at least \$1.5 million. On paper, this farmer is worth \$2 million or more. This makes it difficult for the farmer to pass his property and business on to his family after death. The same is true for small businesses, where the owner's children are not the only ones affected. Those who lose their jobs when the business is partitioned and sold face even more dire circumstances. I support the legislation that would phase-out the death tax over ten years. Defeated only by President Clinton's veto during the last Congress, I hope it can pass this year.

This tax package is right for our country. It meets our needs and obligations for the future while helping all of Americans who pay taxes. It is becoming more and more evident that we need to do something to strengthen the economy. Tax relief is needed now.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE J.W. SUMMERS

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Judge J.W. Summers, a leader in the Texas judicial system and a fine man who dedicated his life to public service.

Judge Summers had something that many in this chamber undoubtedly envy—an unblemished political career, in which he never suffered a defeat in his various races for public office. But it wasn't his winning streak that made him stand out, but rather it was his rep-

utation for integrity and impartiality in the administration of justice that earned him the respect and admiration of all of us who knew him.

Judge Summers was destined for leadership from his early years, when he graduated from Rusk High School as an Eagle Scout and valedictorian of his class. Judge Summers served bravely in the Navy during World War II, and graduated with honors from a great institution of higher learning—the University of Texas in Austin.

But Judge Summers didn't stay in Austin—he came back to his roots in Rusk. After several years of private practice, he served as city attorney, county attorney, and county judge of Cherokee County for eight years.

Judge Summers will be remembered for his many successes as County Judge of Cherokee County. Every year of his administration, Judge Summers won a top financial rating for the county. He payed off remaining debt on the county courthouse, oversaw the construction of the Cherokee County Agricultural Annex Building, and secured the development of many State Farm-to-Market roads, as well as the US Highway 69 stretch from Rusk to Jacksonville.

From 1957 to 1978 he served as District Judge for the Second Judicial District. After 21 years in the job, he continued his service as Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals for the 12th Supreme Judicial District of Texas, a position he held until 1989.

Judge Summers and his wife Inez were active members of their community, participating in the First United Methodist Church in Rusk, where each served as chairman of the Administrative Council. Judge Summers was also president of the Kiwanis Club and a member of Euclid Lodge Number 45. Judge Summers passed away on November 26, 2000.

Our prayers are with Mrs. Summers, the couples' children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and their friends and family members who will share their grief—and their memories—in this time of sadness.

TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons I am here today as a member of Congress is that I was inspired by some excellent professors as a college student.

These professors taught me new ways of looking at the world, and kindled an excitement about learning that still burns today. Where all of my professors helped me acquire knowledge common to liberal arts students of my era, these select few not only taught me, but also ignited my passion for public service.

This nation is blessed with many excellent professors, but one sector of higher education has a harder time than others attracting the best and the brightest. This sector is the tribal college and university system.

The average salary for teachers at tribal colleges and universities is approximately

\$25,000—one-half that of the salary of a teacher at a state college or university.

A sad consequence of these low salaries is that tribal colleges and universities are a training ground for new teachers to get their feet wet; they make short stops before moving on to better paying jobs at other colleges and universities. As a result, the students suffer from both a lack of good teachers and good curriculum.

The Tribal College and University Loan Forgiveness Act gives tribal colleges and universities a tool to attract and keep excellent teachers despite the salary gap.

By providing loan forgiveness, tribal colleges and universities can bring something additional to the negotiation table. Teachers who commit to working in a tribal college or university that have Direct, Perkins, or Guaranteed Loans that are not in default, are eligible for loan forgiveness for up to five years. Total loan forgiveness will be provided for up to \$15,000 in the aggregate of the loans the student currently has.

Tribal colleges and universities, teachers, and students will all benefit from this bill. Furthermore, the Native American communities who send their tribal members to these institutions also benefit.

Tribal colleges and universities not only prepare students for jobs both on and off the reservations, but they also offer programs to the local communities such as adult education, local economic development, and remedial and high school equivalency programs.

The passage of this bill, with bipartisan support, will help these institutions continue their work of not only educating, but bringing out the very best of tribal students and communities.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMBATTING TUBERCULOSIS

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas, Mr. REYES, for introducing this important resolution.

Dr. David Heymann of the World Health Organization once described tuberculosis as "a disease once thought to be under control, which has returned with a vengeance to kill 1.5 million people a year."

TB was once the leading cause of death in the United States. In the 1940s, scientists discovered drugs that would treat TB, and infection rates began to decline. Since that time, however, infection rates both in the U.S. and abroad have increased dramatically. Today, one third of the world's population has a latent TB infection. These increases have not gone unnoticed by international organizations. In fact, in 1993, the World Health Organization declared tuberculosis a global emergency.

These increases in infection rates are due to a number of causes. Increases in HIV/AIDS infection rates are accelerating the spread of TB. In addition, poorly supervised or incomplete treatment threatens to make TB incurable as multidrug resistant TB cases rise.